

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2005

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

In 1971, President Nixon and Congress declared war on cancer with the passage of the National Cancer Act. At that time, lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer death and the overall 5-year survival rate was 12 percent. Thirty four years later, lung cancer is still the leading cancer killer and the overall survival rate is only 15 percent.

During this same period, the National Cancer Institute's (NCI) annual appropriation has risen from \$400 million a year to over \$4.7 billion today. Yet **NCI funding for lung cancer research has been astoundingly inadequate, given the mortality rate from lung cancer.** Lung cancer now kills three times as many men as prostate cancer and nearly twice as many women as breast cancer. The numbers continue to escalate. **Even more disturbing is the fact that over 50 percent of new lung cancer cases are being diagnosed in people who never smoked or who had already quit -- many of them decades ago.**

In August of 2001, the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group to NCI warned that "...we have funded lung cancer research far below the levels that characterize other common malignancies and far out of proportion to its massive public health impact."

For the last four years, and most recently on April 17, 2005, at the opening forum of the 96th annual meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research, the Director of the NCI Andrew von Eschenbach has stated: "(b)y 2015, we can eliminate cancer suffering and death."

**Given that lung cancer accounts for 30 percent of all cancer deaths, achieving this 2015 goal would require an immediate and profound shift in research priorities at NCI, including a transition from the current focus on late stage treatment to the responsible detection and management of early stage disease.**

Over 85 percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer die. This is a devastating statistic that must be changed. We ask that you substantially increase federal funding for, and your commitment to, lung cancer research.

Sincerely,



E. Clay Shaw, Jr., M.C.



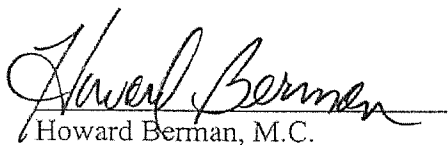
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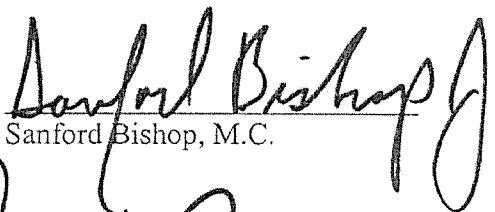
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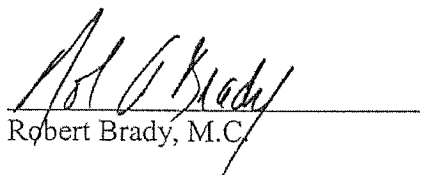
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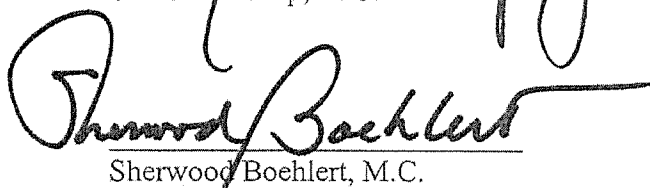
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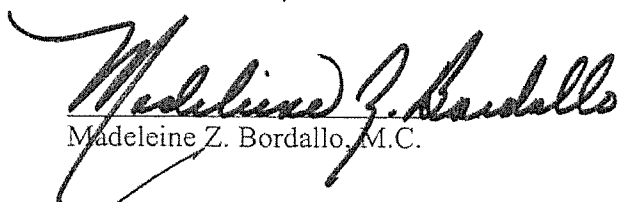
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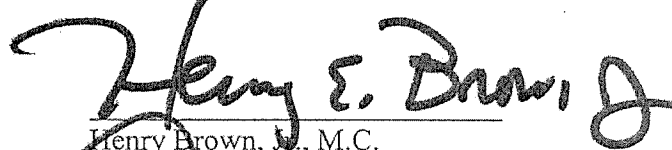
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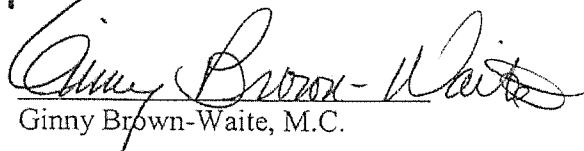
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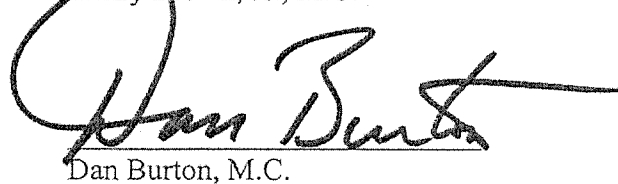
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Ginny Brown-Waite, M.C.



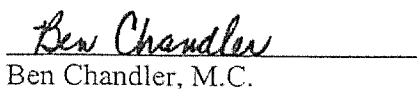
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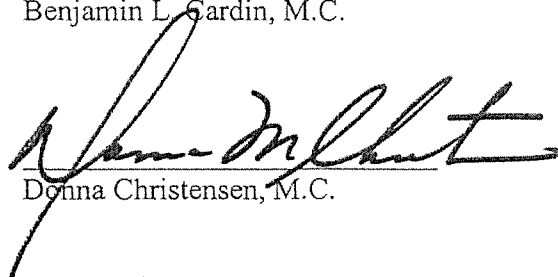
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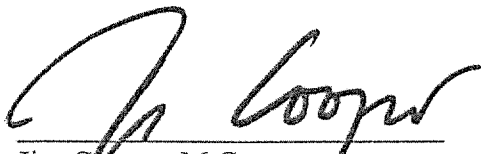
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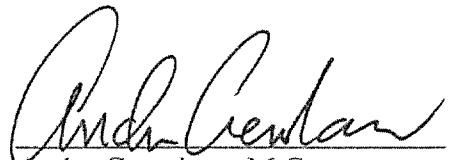


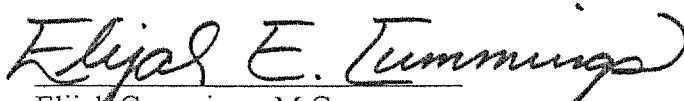
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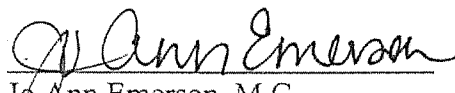
  
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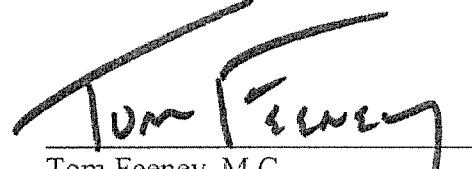
  
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Lincoln Diaz-Balart, M.C.


  
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Rahm Emanuel, M.C.

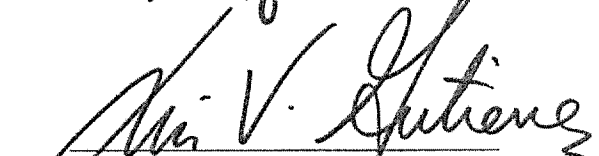
  
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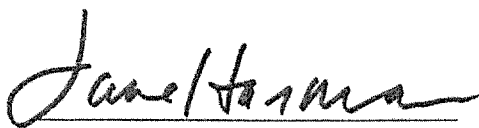
  
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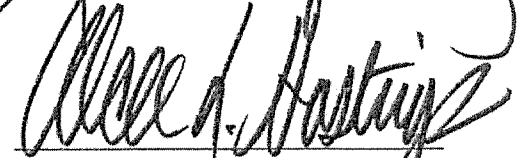
  
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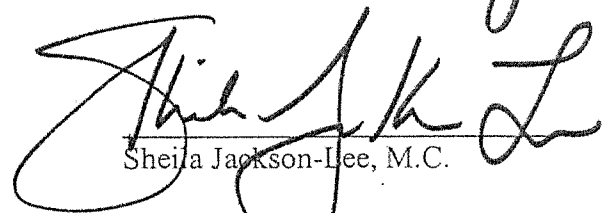
  
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Luis Gutierrez, M.C.

  
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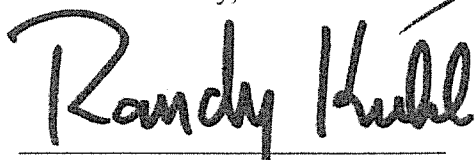
  
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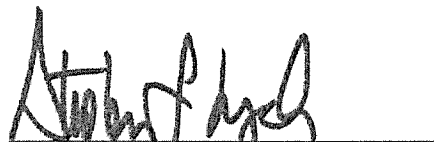
  
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William Jefferson, M.C.

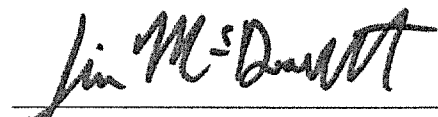
  
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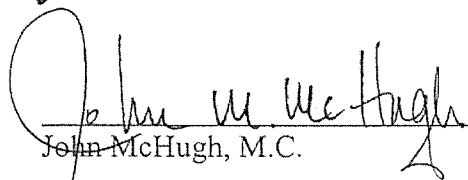
  
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Ron Lewis, M.C.

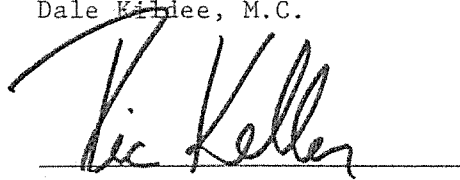
  
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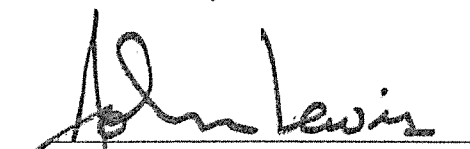
  
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Jim McDermott, M.C.

  
John McHugh, M.C.

  
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Ric Keller, M.C.


  
John Lewis, M.C.

  
John Linder, M.C.


  
Doris Matsui, M.C.

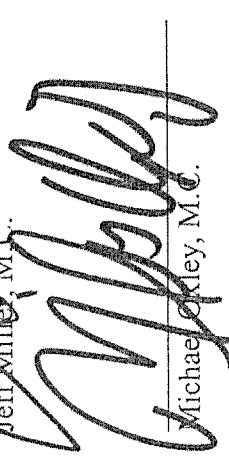
  
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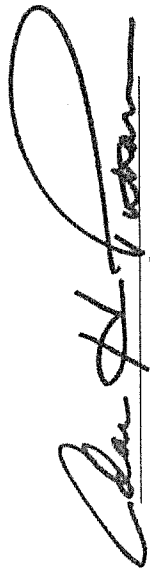
  
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Connie Mack, M.C.

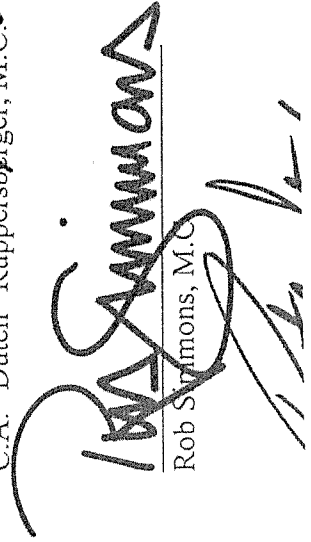
  
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Michael Oakley, M.C.

  
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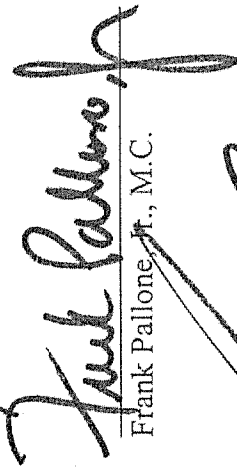
  
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C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger, M.C.

  
Rob Simmons, M.C.


  
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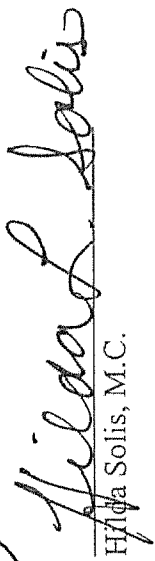
  
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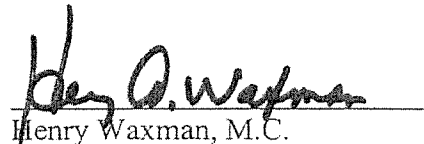
  
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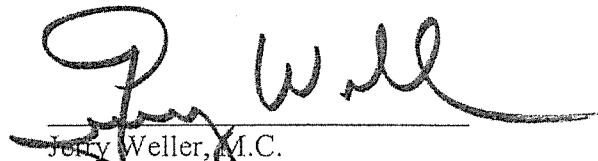
  
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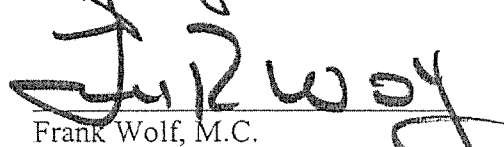
  
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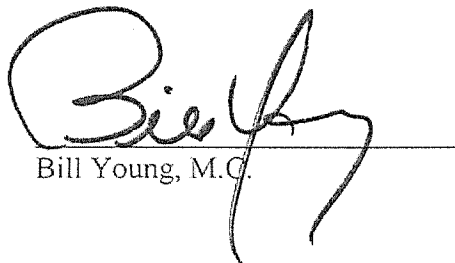
  
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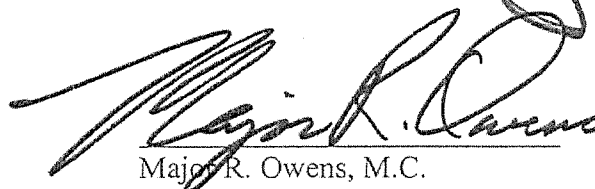
  
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Major R. Owens, M.C.